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Department of History Newsletter

U N I V E R S I T Y O F N O R T H E R N I O W A

HISTORY GRADUATE PROGRAM PROSPERS

In 2000, UNI's History M.A. program could claim a mere handful of students, with only one or two of those enrolled completing degrees each year. Now, ten years later, the program boasts 25 students. Graduation rates have improved markedly, with six students receiving the M.A. in History in the just completed academic year. In addition, there is a new vibrancy among our graduate students.

What has turned things around and transformed the History M.A. program into one of UNI's recent success stories? Bob Martin, the Head of the Department, attributes the change in fortune to several factors. First of all, he points to the expansion in curricular options available to History graduate students. Matriculating History students may now pursue master's degrees through one of three tracks: a thesis option, a non-thesis alternative, and a public history course of study. The public history M.A. option, available since 2002, has proved especially attractive to History graduate students (*Public History is discussed in a separate article*). Martin also notes that History faculty members who have served as coordinators of the History graduate program since 2000—Greg Bruess, Trudy Eden, Barbara Cutter, and Martin himself—have taken a personal role in advising and mentoring graduate students. Complementing the program's leadership, a number of recent faculty hires in History have demonstrated a passion for graduate instruction in their classes and

through independent mentoring. Finally, the economic downturn of the first decade of the new century may have had an ironic benefit: in tough economic times many talented individuals leave their current jobs and seek out graduate degrees to increase their long-term marketability. This appears to have happened in History, just as it seems to be taking place in other academic disciplines.

The increasing number of History graduate students has had a self-reinforcing effect. Having more graduate students in 100g-level classes and graduate only seminars has improved classroom discussions and, we believe, produced better research papers and theses. Not surprisingly, in recent years History graduate students have won internal UNI awards on a number of occasions.

In addition, the increased number of graduate students has produced a sufficient critical mass for many organized out-of-class discussions and activities. For example, History graduate student study groups, History movie nights, and graduate student volunteer opportunities have all flourished in recent years. Of late, the graduate assistant office--Seerley 307--has become a very busy place. Recently, two History graduate students were elected to the Northern Iowa Student Government (NISG) Senate—the first time History has been so represented in two decades.

The resurgence of the History graduate program has not gone unrecognized. Two groups of external reviewers of Department of History



offerings and programs--in 1999-2000 and 2006-07--remarked favorably on the quality of UNI's History graduate program. Another index of quality is the financial support furnished to History graduate students by UNI's Graduate College: in 2002, the Dean of the Graduate College allocated History just 1.5 assistantships and 1.5 graduate tuition scholarships; for 2010-11 the Graduate College Dean's authorization was 4.5 assistantships and 4.5 tuition scholarships. In addition, in 2010-11 two History graduate students held assistantships funded by the Rural Schools Project of the UNI Museum.

Anyone interested in pursuing an M.A. degree in UNI's flourishing History M.A. Program should contact the History Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Barbara Cutter, at Cutter@uni.edu.



LETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and students of the Department of History, I would like to take this opportunity to extend best wishes to all our alumni and friends. It has been ten years since you last received a newsletter from us and, in these pages, you will read of some of the highlights of the past decade. Limitations of space prevent a thorough discussion of all that has happened since we last communicated, but we hope to provide further highlights in subsequent newsletters. I will mention just a few noteworthy items here.

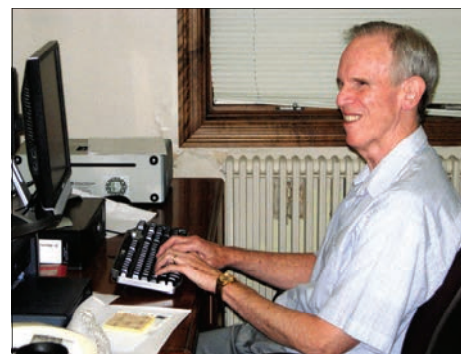
Since 2000, the department has been the beneficiary of gifts that have resulted in the establishment of five new scholarships for junior and senior majors. These include the Tim Hilby, Don and Alleen Howard, Donald M. Lowe, Jerry and JoAnn Kramer, and James Sanders Scholarships, primarily for undergraduates, and the Ray Johnston Scholarship for graduate students in American history. In addition, the family of Alvin R. Sunseri established a fund in Al's memory to help defray costs related to the annual Carl L. Becker Lecture, and the family of Marshall Beard made an additional contribution to the Beard fund which helps to support our lecture series and other miscellaneous expenses. We wish to thank these and other donors for their thoughtful contributions to the department and its students.

History is the study of continuity and change, and our department has been characterized by both in the past decade. Much of the continuity has been provided by the continued able and congen-

ial service of History's two secretaries, Judith Dohman and Vickie Hanson, whose skills and collective knowledge of university offices and systems enable us to function effectively. There remain many familiar names and faces among the faculty, but there have also been substantial changes in personnel. Charles Quirk and Roy Sandstrom retired, while several others, including Andrew Burstein, Nancy Isenberg, Nora Jaffary, Sara Kimble, E. Gabrielle Kuenzli, Jackie McGlade, David McKibbin, and Michelle Mouton, have left for professional or personal reasons. Colleagues who have become part of the faculty since 2000 include Pablo Ben, Barbara Cutter, Trudy Eden, Emily Machen, and Brian Roberts. In addition, Chad Christopher joined the department and college as an advisor to History Education and Social Science Education majors. Meanwhile, Timothy O'Connor and David Walker rejoined the faculty after many notable years in administration. So, too, did John Johnson, who, having served with distinction as Department Head in History from 1988 to 2003 and as Interim Dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences from January 2008 to June 2009, has returned now to the classroom on a full-time basis. We were saddened by the deaths of emeritus colleagues Hsi-ling Cheng, Richard Newell, Alvin Sunseri, and Donald Whitnah. Many of you will remember these individuals fondly and with respect for the roles they played as teachers, mentors, and, in Don's case, as Department Head for twenty years.

Despite many challenges, the decade since 2000 has been a gratifying one. Two external reviews of the department were positive and instructive. Undergraduate and graduate enrollments have consistently been strong. The faculty have continued to engage in creative and productive teaching and scholarship. Most of our graduates appear to have either continued their education or moved on to satisfying and rewarding careers. Our success is measured by your achievements as our alumni, and we are pleased to take this opportunity to share some news with you and to say "thank you" to all of you for all the ways in which you have helped to make the department successful.

Robert F. Martin
Professor and Head



Dr. Robert F. Martin

PUBLIC HISTORY: NEW OPPORTUNITIES

For decades, the Department of History has offered courses that introduce History majors to non-teaching options in their chosen discipline and provide internship opportunities, first under the direction of Dr. Glenda Riley and, since 1990, Dr. Joanne Goldman. In the last decade, the Department has made significant changes that expand the public history program.

In 2002, the History Department introduced an undergraduate Public History Program Certificate and created a Public History track for the M.A. program. Seventeen undergraduates thus far have received a certificate, and seven students are currently completing the course work for certification. When the department developed the Public History track for the M.A. program, the number of M.A. students was small (*The History M.A. program is discussed in a separate article.*). However, as the M.A. program has grown in general, so has the Public History track as eight graduate students are presently pursuing their degrees with an emphasis in public history. Both of these developments have improved the opportunities for our students to find history-related jobs outside of teaching.

The public history internship program has always been a crucial link in aiding our students' pursuit of non-teaching positions, and it too has seen change. In 2002, the Public History Program Intern Advisory Council was created. Comprised of fourteen representatives of Iowa's Public History community, this group meets annually to discuss changes occurring in the Public History sector



Dr. Joanne Goldman

and to act as a liaison between the History Department and public historians throughout the state. Since 2000, one hundred and ten students have interned at various sites throughout Iowa and the country, including the Washington Center, Grout Museum, the Cedar Falls Historical Society, and the State Historical Society of Iowa.

In 2008, the History Department further enhanced the public history program when it started requiring all history majors to take a one-hour-credit field experience paired with the Introduction to the Study of History. This new Public History Service Learning requirement introduces students to the work of public historians by having them volunteer at a local museum or historic site. Dr. Tom Connors, who designed the service experience, piloted it in 2005-07 at the Cedar Falls Historical Society. The number of sites where students can volunteer has grown to twenty-five, including historical sites in the Cedar Falls/Waterloo area; Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, Decorah; Old Bradford Village, Nashua; Parker NW Iowa Railroad Museum, Cherokee; and the Iowa State Fair Museum, Des Moines. This field experience has been of great value to both partners, the students and historic sites. For some students,

the experience showed them different employment opportunities; for others, the experience led to their appreciation of the hard work that goes into creating museum exhibits or organizing archival collections; and for still others, the service project convinced them to pursue a career in public history rather than teaching. The historic sites have benefitted as well, according to the feedback of some of their directors. They emphasize that in their underfunded and understaffed environment our student volunteers allow them to complete projects in their collections that would otherwise languish.

The dedication of Dr. Goldman and Dr. Connors to public history in the Department has been immense and reflects the strong commitment of our faculty to opening up opportunities for our majors. In Fall 2010, Dr. Trudy Eden became director of the Public History Program, replacing Dr. Goldman, and we look forward to her continuing the traditions of her predecessor and bringing new ideas to the program.



Dr. Trudy Eden

SENDING A MESSAGE: HISTORY GRADUATES ADDRESS COMMENCEMENT AUDIENCES

The University of Northern Iowa customarily selects its commencement speaker from the graduating class. The opportunity to deliver the commencement address--what UNI presidents have termed "our pleasant custom"--is rotated among UNI's seven colleges. When the selection of a commencement speaker falls to the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences (CSBS) or the Graduate College, department heads in CSBS recommend worthy candidates. The appropriate dean then selects the commencement speaker.

Candidates considered for the delivery of a commencement address are among the top students in their majors. These intellectually accomplished individuals have also participated in many extra-curricular activities and have distinguished themselves in a variety of non-academic arenas. In addition, since speaking in front of an audience of several thousand can be a daunting challenge, only students with exceptional poise and stage presence are considered.

In the last decade, we are pleased to report that three History students received the welcome call to deliver the UNI commencement address. In May 2003, **Adam Humes**, a B.A. in History (liberal arts) from Clinton, IA, was selected as the commencement speaker. In May 2005, **Jenny Rokes Connolly**, a B.A. in History (teaching) from Dike-New Hartford, IA, was chosen to deliver the address. And in December 2009, **Joshua Waddle**, a History M. A. (with a concentration in Public History) from New London, IA, was so honored. Jenny and Josh were kind enough to share memories of

their time on the commencement stage.



Jenny and Family

Jenny recalls being both honored and humbled when she received the invitation to speak at her commencement. During her brief time before the microphone, she led the audience on a campus tour, reflecting upon the meaning for her education of the historic buildings and special places on the UNI campus—e.g. the Campanile, Maucker Union, Seerley Hall, Rod Library, the WRC, and the residence halls. Since receipt of her undergraduate degree, Jenny has been a busy young woman. She served two terms as a member of the Iowa Board of Regents and received a master's degree from UNI in Postsecondary Education. She later served as a UNI residence hall coordinator. Currently, Jenny is an Assistant Director of Admissions at UNI; her principal responsibility is to arrange visits of prospective students to campus.

Josh received his offer to deliver the commencement address just minutes after successfully defending his master's thesis in Public History. He recalls the irony of trading the rigors of preparing for the oral defense of his thesis project with the stresses of writing a speech to be delivered before 6000 spectators. The main point

Josh made in his address was that the degree of personal involvement in his own education was the determining factor in his academic success: when he was most actively engaged in his studies and projects, he performed at a high level; by contrast, on those few occasions when he was passive, his experiences were less than ideal. Josh is currently teaching history classes at Hawkeye Community College and preparing for study for the Ph.D. in History, with an emphasis on recent American social history.



Josh

UNI History faculty who had the privilege to teach our commencement speakers have drawn vicarious pleasure from the recognition accorded to them. Perhaps, at future commencements, we will have the opportunity to bask in more reflected glory as other History graduates ascend the podium and send their messages to thousands of friends and family.

HISTORY FACULTY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

John Baskerville:

--Published *The Impact of Black Nationalist Ideology on American Jazz Music of the 1960s and 1970s* (Edwin Mellen Press, 2003)

**Pablo Ben:**

--Completed the Ph.D. in History, University of Chicago, 2009
 --Taught Core Curriculum sections of "Latin America" and upper-level courses on Latin American History

Dick Broadie:

--Taught American Civilization on numerous occasions
 --Published several book reviews and encyclopedia entries
 --Served as KUNI Commentator, 2000-04
 --Serves as Faculty Liaison to College Republicans, 2007-present

Greg Bruess:

--Led several summer study tours to Greece
 --Completed several years as History Graduate Coordinator in 2003
 --Serves as a representative of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences on the UNI Faculty Senate

Tom Connors:

--Developed and implemented the "Public History Field Experience in Service Learning" for History majors
 --President, Cedar Falls Historical Society, 2004-06
 --Consulted on Teaching



American Hist. grants in 25 states
 --Designed and led cemetery tours in 20 states

Barbara Cutter:

--Published *Domestic Devils, Battlefield Angels: The Radicalism of American Womanhood, 1830-1865* (Northern Illinois University Press, 2003) and an article in the *Journal of Women's History* (2008)
 --Received "Distinguished Faculty Award" from Iowa Chapter of the American Association of University Women
 --Serves as History Graduate Coordinator, 2009-present

**Bob Dise:**

--Served as UNI Humanities Coordinator, 2006-2011
 --Published 36-lecture DVD/Audio CD project, "Ancient Empires before Alexander" for the Teaching Company (2009)
 --Founded in 2005 and continues to lead "The Canterbury Forum," a community service of 8 programs a year on religion, society and culture

**Trudy Eden:**

--Published *Cooking in America, 1590-1840* (Greenwood Press, 2006) and *The Early American Table: Food and Society in the New World* (Northern Illinois Press, 2008)
 --Guest Curator of UNI Museum exhibit, "From Slow Food to Fast Food: The Way Iowans Ate 1870-1970"

--Served as History Graduate Coordinator, 2006-08

Lou Fenech:

--Published *The Darbar of the Sikh Gurus: The Court of God in the World of Man* (Oxford University Press, 2008)

Joanne Goldman:

--Designed and Coordinates Program Certificate in Public History and the M.A. Public History track
 --Published articles in *Technology and Culture* (2000) and *The Annals of Iowa* (2000 and 2008)

Reinier Hesselink:

--Publications include: two books (one in English and one in Dutch); five articles in peer-reviewed journals (four in English and one in Japanese); and five chapters in edited scholarly works (three in English, one in Japanese, and one in Dutch)
 --Forthcoming book, *The Rise and Fall of Christian Nagasaki, 1560-1640*
 --Awarded fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities (12 months) and the Japan Foundation (9 months)

Wally Hettle:

--Taught new Junior/Senior Seminars on "Mark Twain's America" and "American Slavery"
 --Published *The Peculiar Democracy: Southern Democrats in Peace and Civil War* (University of Georgia Press, 2001) and *Stonewall Jackson: A Civil War Hero in History and Memory* (LSU Press, 2011)



Chuck Holcombe:

--Received UNI Regents Award for Faculty Excellence, 2007
 --Published *The Genesis of East Asia, 221 B.C.-A.D. 907* (University of Hawaii Press, 2001) and *A History of East Asia: From the Origins of Civilization to the Twenty-First Century* (Cambridge University Press, 2011)

John Johnson:

--Designed and taught Capstone course, "Analysis of Social Issues," in UNI's Core Curriculum



--Received Donald McKay [now James Lubker] UNI Faculty Research Award (2001), UNI Distinguished Scholar Award (2006-07), and Regents Award for Faculty Excellence (2011)

--Published books: *Historic U.S. Court Cases: An Encyclopedia* (Routledge, 2001); *Griswold v. Connecticut: Birth Control and the Constitutional Right of Privacy* (University Press of Kansas, 2005); and, with co-author Robert Green, *Affirmative Action: A Historical Guide to Controversial Issues in America* (Greenwood and ABC-CLIO, 2009)

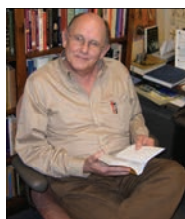
--Served as Head of History Department (1988-2003) and Interim Dean, UNI's College of Social and Behavioral Sciences (2008-09)

Jay Lees:

--Taught course on the Holocaust in Krakow, Poland during several summer sessions

--Created and offered Capstone course, "Sacred Space," in various regions of Italy

--Published articles on Hrotsvit of Gandersheim, a Saxon nun, playwright and historian of the Middle Ages



--Commenced work on a documentary film about the 2008 tornado that devastated Butler County, Iowa

Ken Lyftogt:

--Published paperback editions of *Iowa's Forgotten Generals* (University Press of Iowa, 2005) and *From Blue Mills to Columbia* (University Press of Iowa, 2007) and three articles for *The Biographical Dictionary of Iowa*

--Serving on Board of Directors of Humanities Iowa

Emily Machen:

--Completed Ph.D. in History, University of Mississippi, 2006

--Began offering European Women's History

--Forthcoming articles in the *Journal of Women's History* and *Minerva: Journal of Women and War*

**Donna Maier:**

--Published several essays and book reviews on African topics

--Did extensive interviewing and evaluation of witness testimony for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

--Conducted research on the health of Massai women in Tanzania

--Delivered keynote address for the 2009 UNI Model United Nations Conference

Bob Martin:

--Designed and offered two Junior/Senior Seminars: "American History Through Biography" and "Great American Disasters"

--Published *Hero of the Heartland: Billy Sunday and the Transformation of American Society, 1862-1935* (Indiana University Press, 2002)

--Serves as Head of the Department of History (2003 to the present)

Tim O'Connor:

--Served as UNI's Assistant Vice President for International Programs, 1995-2008

--Currently on leave and serving as an advisor to the Russian Ministry of Education

Brian Roberts:

--Prepared course on American Environmental History

--Published *American Alchemy: The California Gold Rush and Middle Class Culture* (University of North Carolina Press, 2000)

--Published several articles on the California gold rush and other topics

--Forthcoming book on American popular music, 1800-1920

Konrad Sadkowski:

--Led the successful effort to establish a Global Studies major at UNI

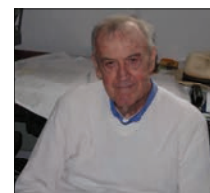
--Co-directs a summer study abroad program in Krakow, Poland, 2004-present

Don Shepardson:

--Continues to offer Humanities II and III and several upper-level courses in European History

--Published articles in *The Midwest Quarterly* and *The Iowa Biographical Dictionary*

--Selected for annual workshop at the Center for Strategic Education of Johns Hopkins University, 2002

**David Walker:**

--Received Regents Award for Faculty Excellence, 2009

--Published three scholarly essays and about 25 book reviews

--Served as Associate Dean for Faculty Scholarship in UNI's Graduate College, 1988-2005



--Served seven years as the UNI representative on the Book Award and Travel Grant Committee of the Hoover Presidential Library Association

Tim Von Tersch:

--Taught American Civilization at UNI on numerous occasions
 --Published book review in *The Annals of Iowa*

Carol Weisenberger:

--Led restructuring of upper-level Twentieth Century U.S. History offerings
 --Offered course in the Social Science M.A. program (via the Iowa Communications Network) and two courses in UNI's Lifelong University
 --Published an encyclopedia essay on the National Youth Administration
 --Served as Acting Director of UNI's Master of Public Policy Program, 2007-08

Charlotte Wells:



--Developed and taught five new undergraduate and graduate History classes

--Published two articles in peer-reviewed journals
 --Served for several years as Co-editor in Chief and Book Review Editor of H-France, an independent electronic network on French history
 --Delivered several presentations in her specialties at scholarly meetings and before community organizations in the Cedar Valley



Faculty Lunch Group: (Left to Right) Dr. Machen, Dr. Walker, Dr. Shepardson, Dr. Johnson, and Dr. Martin



Dr. Carol Weisenberger with a group of former UNI Graduate Students

EMERITUS FACULTY

Howard Jones (1954-1991) has remained in Cedar Falls since his retirement and pursues his favorite hobby, genealogy, sharing his data and helping people find their ancestors. He remains a strong supporter of the performing arts and is a honorary life member of the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center Advisory Board. In 2007, he was the first recipient of the Howard V. Jones Award for Leadership and Philanthropy in the Arts, an annual award established by the UNI Foundation. Sadly, his wife Ellen passed away in December 2000.

Charles Quirk (1963-2001) lives in Waterloo with his wife Gale and is actively involved with the United Faculty at UNI, serving as its Executive Director, Chief Negotiator in collective bargaining with the Board of Regents, and editor of "The Union Line," a biannual publication of the union. He remains an enthusiastic sports fan. He is a proud shareholder and season ticket owner of the Green Bay Packers and an occasional visitor to athletic activities of one or more of his nine grandchildren.

Tom Ryan (1960-1993) resides in Cedar Falls with his wife Jane, and they spend time visiting their grandchildren. Over the past ten years, he

periodically has written op-ed pieces for the *Des Moines Register* and *Waterloo Courier* analyzing voting behavior.

Roy Sandstrom (1969-2004) lives in Tampa Bay, Florida, where he is enjoying retirement with his wife Judy and is pursuing his interest in bridge. He teaches bridge classes at two local bridge clubs and became a life master in bridge in fall 2009. He and his wife directed two bridge cruises to Cozumel, and plans are pending for one to Bermuda.

Dean Talbott (1967-1996) still lives in Cedar Falls, but travels to Seattle several times a year to visit his son, daughter-in-law, and two grandsons. He is active in the UNI Emeritus Association, serving as chair this year; volunteers at the UNI Museum and Cedar Falls Historical Society; and with his wife Alice, he participates in the Adventures in Dining of the UNI Connection. He continues to teach a course on Latin America through Continuing Education.

Hal Wohl (1956-1995) resides in Cedar Falls and continues to teach in various venues. He was a visiting lecturer at the Russian State University in St. Petersburg in 2001 and again in 2003 and has taught four different courses over the past four years in UNI's Lifelong University, an adult education program for senior citizens, with a fifth course planned for the fall. He also has been giving talks to various groups in the Cedar Valley.



Dr. Howard Jones



Dr. Roy and Judy Sandstrom

ALUMNI RESPONSES

1940s

Wayne S. Cole (B.A., 1946) is a Professor Emeritus at the University of Maryland. *Memories:* I carry happy memories of my studies at ISTC. Dr. F. W. Wellborn's course on American diplomatic history guided me to focus on that field and also led to my appointment at the University of Maryland.

Cornelius de Stigter (B.A., 1948), who lives in Livonia, Michigan, has been retired since 1986 and still enjoys being recognized by former students. He writes that many of them remember the first assignment he gave them in his American history class—to explore the details of how their family “discovered” America—and their surprise at the stories they found.

R. Aubrey LaFoy (B.A., 1949) is retired and living in Arnolds Park, Iowa. He received an M.A. from the University of Northern Colorado in 1950 and published four books about the history of the Iowa great lakes as well as written over eight hundred articles for local newspapers. *Memories:* Dr. Pendergraft was my favorite instructor. He always impressed me by remembering all his students.

1960s

Gary Achenbach (B.A., 1969) retired in 2010 after forty-one years of teaching/coaching, the last 34 at Boone Community School. He served as the Chair of the Social Studies Department.

Memories: Dr. Jones was the department head and my adviser—a great educator and a class person.

Fred Cachola (B.A., 1960) returned home to Hawaii to teach after graduation in 1960 and went into education administration, serving as vice principal and principal of the largest elementary school in Hawaii. He became the first director of the Community Education Division of Kamehameha (his high school alma mater), a large, well-endowed private school; was the principal architect of many innovative programs to service native Hawaiian youth throughout the state of Hawaii; and retired in 1996. Fred has also been very involved in many local and national efforts regarding historical/cultural preservation among native Americans, serving as the first chairman of the federal Native American Advisory Group and helping the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Department of Defense develop formal policies for consulting with native Hawaiians on all historical/cultural matters. He notes that he recently attended his “Golden Anniversary” celebrations at UNI and had a wonderful time reconnecting with classmates, friends, and fraternity brothers (AXE-SAE). *Memories:* Many memories of excellent classes with Doctors Poage, Howard, Talbott, Lang, Wohl, and others. The seminars with Dr. Lang were inspiring and I loved the debates I had with Dr.

Poage and Dr. Wohl on American imperialism in the Pacific. My senior-year seminar and studies in American history and imperialism in the Pacific were key elements in my future life-long studies of the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom and the illegal annexation of Hawaii—a sad chapter in American history.

Ron Crooks (B.A., 1964) was a High School Social Studies Teacher, Elementary School Principal, and Superintendent in the LaPorte City/Union Community School system and retired in 2001. He received an M.A. in Educational Administration-Elementary Principal in 1968 and a Superintendent's Endorsement in 1978. In 2004-05, he was the Interim Superintendent of the Hudson School District.

David Draper (B.A., 1967) lives in Cedar Falls and is retired.

Carroll Engelhardt (B.A., 1963) is an Emeritus Professor of History at Concordia College, retiring from full-time teaching in 2003 and continuing part-time until 2007. He published *Gateway to the Northern Plains: Railroads and the Birth of Fargo and Moorhead* in 2007 with the University of Minnesota Press. He is currently writing a coming of age book about growing up in Iowa at mid-century—a reminiscence of his boyhood, his hometown, and a vanished way of life (small-scale diversified farming). *Memories:* I especially

enjoyed taking Humanities I and II with George Poage and Howard Thompson. I later took German History from Poage and Europe from 1815 and European Intellectual History from Thompson. Thompson had the most influence on me in terms of teaching and interesting me in intellectual history. I liked Lyman Harris (Russian History), Daryl Pendergraft and Don Howard (U.S. History), Howard Jones (Europe to 1815), and Hal Wohl (Historians and Philosophy of History and American Intellectual).

Mary Furlong (B.A., 1963, Social Sciences and Education) is retired and lives in McSherrystown, Pennsylvania. She has been a volunteer in Zambia, training teachers (urban) and serving as the HIV/AIDS Project Director (rural). In 2005, she was inducted into the Adams County PHSSL (state) Pennsylvania Forensics Hall of Fame, and received the Lifetime of Peacemaking Award from the Interfaith Center for Peace and Justice in 2010. *Memories:* Dr. George Poage sparked my interest in European history, and I took as many of his courses as possible.

Larry Harper (B.A., 1968, History) retired as a business owner in 2007 and lives in Onalaska, Wisconsin. He plays golf and substitute teaches.

Steven Koch (B.A., 1967; M.A., 1972) retired in 2009 after teaching social science 42 years in the Des Moines Public Schools and, since his retirement, occasionally substitute teaches. His wife Jan (B.A., 1972) continues to teach pre-k in the Des Moines Public Schools, and his two children are also educators. His daughter Jennifer teaches music therapy

in Tallahassee, Florida, while her husband Chris teaches special education, and his son Brian is a social science teacher at East High in the D.M.P.S. *Memories:* I remember great history education at UNI during undergraduate and graduate studies. Professors were all excellent. In 1972, I became the first at UNI to specialize in Latin American History as part of the M.A. program.

Jerry Kramer (B.A., 1963; M.A., 1970) is retired from teaching history in the Waterloo Community School system and is enjoying his retirement as he volunteers at the Grout Museum and travels in the U.S. and Europe, visiting places that he has read about over the years. *Memories:* I will always appreciate the knowledge that I gained from professors like Tom Ryan and Harold Wohl and from working as Don Whitnah's graduate research assistant.

Philip Meyer (B.A., 1969) is retired and lives in West Des Moines. *Memories:* He remembers Recent American History taught by Professor Tom Ryan.

John Minehart (B.A., 1960; M.A., 1970) retired as a Teacher/Department Chair from the Cedar Falls Community Schools in 1995. After retiring, John and his wife lived most of the time at their northern Minnesota lakeshore cottage/shop building birch bark canoes until they sold the property in 2007. They have returned to Cedar Falls except for the cold months when they escape to Florida. *Memories:* The best part of my memories of UNI concern the outstanding teachers I was fortunate to associate with Drs. Howard, Lang, Jones, Fox, and

Whitnah, to name just a few. I did much of my postgraduate work at Dartmouth College, but never felt better instructed nor more positively inspired than by the history/humanities staff at UNI.

David Sanger (B.A., 1968) retired in 2006, after teaching 33 years at Salida High School in Salida, Colorado, to be closer to his youngest son who was fighting melanoma. His son is now cancer free and trying to rebuild his life. *Memories:* I most strongly recall Dr. Howard Jones. I took all his classes and used him as the inspiration for my career as a teacher of history. There was always humor in his classes, something that I always used as well.

Donald (Al) Snider (B.A., 1962, Social Science), at the time of his retirement, was CEO of Jarvie Commonweal Service, a foundation working for the older adults in the Greater New York City area. *Memories:* Fond, but now distant memories—George Poage got me interested in school again after I had spent two lackluster years in college.

Carol (Hahn) Stallkamp (B.A., 1968) is Assistant to the President of Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Kay (Carson) Torney (B.A., 1967) is Network Services Manager for Feeding South Dakota, Sioux Falls, S.D.

1970s

Edward Andersen (B.A., 1971) who received his M.B.A. from Northern Illinois University in 1984 is President and CEO of CGH Medical Center.

Billie (Brown) Bailey (B.A., 1979) is Executive Director of the Grout Museum District. The Grout Museum District completed a major addition in 2008, the \$12 million Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum. Also in that year, her daughter Lauren married Logan Vander Wiel. Lauren graduated in 2010, and they will remain in the area while Logan completes his music degree. *Memories:* I loved the enthusiasm of David Walker (History of the West) and Al Sunseri (Civil War History). I recall helping Don Shepardson haul books in my VW Rabbit for the Phi Alpha Theta book sale, and Glenda Riley helped me figure out what to do with my life!

Dennis Bishop (B.A., 1975; M.E., 1986) is retired and lives in Wichita, Kansas. His latest publication is *Under the North Star*.

Marjorie (Wilder) Bradshaw (B.A., 1970) went on disability in March 2002 from her position as pastor in the Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church and has continued in this status. Before going on disability, she served three parishes after graduation from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in 1988. *Memories:* I recall an 8 a.m. history class with Dr. Howard and even more vividly his ejecting someone from class for dozing off. Dr. Whitnah and Dr. Quirk were particularly excellent teachers as was Howard Jones who taught History of the Ancient Near East. I

believe UNI had an outstanding social science (as it was called then) faculty. I am particularly grateful to Dr. Whitnah for providing a reference for me when I began graduate work 15 years ago. He remembered me and specifics of the several classes I took with him.

Willard Brandt (B.A., 1974) is a Collection Analyst at Advantage Management Corporation and lives in Owatonna, Minnesota.

Jerry (Gerald) Burt (B.A., 1974) lives in Urbandale, Iowa, and since 2000 has served as Warden, Fort Dodge Correctional Facility, 2002-2006; Warden, Anamosa State Penitentiary, 2006-2009; and Deputy Director, Eastern Operations, Iowa Department of Corrections, 2009 to the present. His son Eric received a B.A. from UNI in 2004, and his son Brian is a 2006 graduate of UNI with a bachelor's degree.

Dave Byers (B.A., 1971) is the Director of the Arizona Supreme Court and member of the board of directors, State Bar of Arizona. He was recently elected Chairman of the Board of the state's retirement system.

Leigh (Henry) Cox (B.A., 1971) is a retired educator and lives in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Marilyn (Carson) Ferguson (B.A., 1971) was Site Coordinator at the William Penn Center of Indian Hills Community College, located in Oskaloosa, until her recent retirement. She indicates the most interesting news is about her family. She has three married daughters who have blessed her family with ten grandchildren--one granddaughter and nine grandsons under the age of ten.

Grandchild number eleven was born Fall 2010.

Kevin Grogan (B.A., 1977, Minor in Business) lives in Cascade, Iowa.

Stephen Hagedorn (B.A., 1971) was a Risk Manager for Alaska Railroad Corporation, retiring in June 2009 after 34 years with the firm. In March 2007, Governor Sarah Palin appointed him to his current position as Appeals Commissioner for Workers' Compensation Appeals. *Memories:* The 4+ years I spent at UNI were some of the best of my life. Though I never applied my History Degree to teaching, the education I received getting that degree served me well over the course of my career. I will always be indebted to UNI for giving me a chance to better myself academically.

Creston Harris (B.A., 1970) was a banker in Rockford, Illinois until 1995. Then he started Financial Marketing Systems, Inc., of which he is President and moved to southwest Florida. *Memories:* All I remember is filling up blue books. The less I knew, the more I wrote.

Mike Healy (B.A., 1972; M.A., 1991, Education Psychology-Teaching) received a Specialist Degree in Education Leadership from Drake University in 2002 and his Ed.D. in Education Leadership from Drake in 2007. He is currently the Superintendent of Bellevue Community Schools. His daughter Megan teaches elementary special education in Iowa City, and his daughter Erin will be a senior at UNI in the fall, majoring in biology. *Memories:* My class in Constitutional History taught me the research and academic inquiry methods that I used

throughout my career including my doctoral research.

Randy Hefner (B.A., 1975) was sworn in as a new judge for Iowa's Fifth Judicial District at a January ceremony at the Dallas County Courthouse in Adel. After graduating with honors from UNI, Hefner received his J.D. from Drake University Law School in 1978. Following law school he joined the firm Shaff, Farwell & Senneff in Clinton where he practiced until moving to Adel in 1979. Hefner takes the bench having a nearly 30-year legal career in private practice with Hefner & Bergkamp Law Firm in Adel. Hefner's wife Connie ('75 Elementary Education) retired from education in 2010. They have a son, Mark, of St. Paul, MN. *Memories:* John Eiklor was a rock star. His lectures about WWII and, in particular, the Holocaust filled the lecture halls. Alvin Sunseri's History of the South was one of my favorite classes. Tom Ryan was an excellent mentor and, in my opinion, the foremost expert on Iowa political history.

John Koberg (B.A., 1975) is retired and lives in St. Louis, Missouri.

Leonard Larsen (B.A., 1972; M.A., 1973) received a Ph.D. from Iowa State University in 2000 in Educational Leadership and is a semi-retired adjunct instructor of History and Education at Des Moines Area Community College. *Memories:* I miss the discussions on the merits of Otto von Bismarck's policies while serving cheese burgers in the Union.

Clen Lincoln (B.A., 1971; M.A.E., 1988) retired from middle school teaching in 2005 after a 33-

year career. He now works full-time as a Security Officer at Trinity Regional Medical Center where he had previously worked part-time for 27 years.

Randolph Lyon (B.A., 1971) retired last year as an Elementary Teacher from the Dubuque Community School District. He wrote *Dubuque: The Encyclopedia* and *Faith and Fortunes: An Encyclopedia of Dubuque County*; co-authored *Between Two Rivers: Iowa Year by Year*; and contributed to *The Encyclopedia of the Midwest*, *The Encyclopedia of the Central West*, and *The Encyclopedia of the Far West*. Most recently he developed an online encyclopedia

(encyclopedia.dubuque.org) for the city of Dubuque that received honors from the State Historical Society of Iowa. He was one of the first Gold Star teachers from Dubuque County in the program sponsored by KWWL and in 2010 was one of the five finalists for Iowa Teacher of the Year. He has been listed multiple times in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*. *Memories:* Dr. Daryl Pendergraft was one of my first professors and certainly one of the best. I also remember with great joy the classes from Dr. Alvin Sunseri. I received an excellent preparation in the Department of History.

Mark Mortenson (B.A., 1973) is retired and lives in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Michael Murray (B.A., 1977, Coaching minor) retired in May 2010 as a Teacher/Coach from the Central Community School District and will be a sales representative for a new company, Mobile Track Solutions, Elkader, Iowa. He has two children attending

UNI and enjoys returning to campus. He notes that the school has never looked better. *Memories:* Dr. Quirk and Dr. Ryan. I really enjoyed all my history classes. The various courses made the transition from student to teacher quite smooth. Emphasis today should be placed on connecting the history we are examining to the world we currently live in.

Joseph Needham (B.A., 1979; M.A., 1981) is an Assistant Professor of History at Luther College, joining the faculty in 2003. *Memories:* I do not recall any specific memories but do remember that my years at UNI were great.

Philip Patton (B.A., 1970; M.A., 1977) is the University Registrar at UNI, and his wife is Dr. Paula Gilroy, psychologist in the UNI Counseling Center. They have two daughters, Noelle age 10 and Elise age 9. *Memories:* I was very fortunate to have some of the very best teachers UNI had to offer. A few of those were John Eiklor, Howard Jones, Don Whitnah, George Poage, Al Sunseri, and Howard Thompson.

Michael Peck (B.A., 1970) is a Document Control Specialist at Blood Systems, Inc., and lives in Chandler, Arizona.

Jack Petersen (B.A., 1978) is a Counsel at Principal Life Insurance Company and lives in Clive, Iowa.

Ron Reusche (B.A., 1979) is a middle school Math/Language Arts Teacher and Athletic Director at Nashua-Plainfield Schools. He went back into teaching this year after 18 years as middle school principal at Nashua-Plainfield. He and his wife Cheryl have three children, Megan, Derek, & Kayla.

Mark Royer (B.A., 1978) is Director, Political Action and Administration, at Farmers Insurance Group. His oldest daughter, Renee, graduated from the University of Texas-Austin with a B.A. in Corporate Communications; his middle daughter, Lydia, is a senior at Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo, majoring in Nutrition and Spanish; and his youngest daughter, Heather, is at Moorpark College. *Memories:* Dr. David Walker was the best professor I ever had. He made the history come alive.

Kevin Sims (M.A., 1978) is Professor of Political Science at Cedarville University, Xenia, Ohio.

James Stewart (B.A., 1974) and his wife, a UNI graduate, moved in 2005 to Danville, Kentucky, where he is the Pastor/Head of Staff of the Presbyterian Church, the oldest Presbyterian Church west of the Alleghenies, started in 1784. He notes that the church and community are steeped in history including the founding minister being an outspoken opponent of slavery and the church being used as a hospital during the Civil War after the Battle of Perryville which was fought nearby and was pivotal in keeping Kentucky in the Union. During the 2010 NCAA tournament, his wife and he believe they were among the very few UNI fans in the Big Blue Nation of Kentucky. *Memories:* I was fortunate to be at UNI in History at what I'd call the Golden Age. The department had a number of former university administrators teaching in the department. Those men, and they were all men, were all believers in classical pedagogy—Daryl “Penny” Pendergraft and Dean Howard. They represented much of UNI's history. Penny, in particular, was one of my favorites. His History of

the West and History of U.S. Economic History were great. Don Whitnah's Constitutional History was also beneficial.

Kristi Thorne (B.A., 1977) lives in Austin, Texas, and retired in 2009. *Memories:* I loved the course on the Civil War.

Grant Veeder (B.A., 1974, English; M.A., 1979) is County Auditor for Black Hawk County and was a member of the Iowa Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, giving about 30 presentations for the commission around the state, mostly on Lincoln's connections to Iowa. His articles on the latter topic were published in *Iowa Heritage Illustrated* and the *Iowa County Magazine* and on the commission's website. Grant and his wife Kim (B.A., History/Computer Science, 1986) have two sons. Ryan graduated spring 2010 from the University of Iowa in Linguistics and will be a TA in that department in the fall. Sean finished his freshman year at UNI where he majors in music and history. *Memories:* Too many to recount. Here are some recollections of graduate seminars held in professors' homes: Al Sunseri (Civil War) did his best to frighten off as many students as possible on the first night, with considerable success; Roy Sandstrom (French History) gave us a wine seminar at break time; and Howard Thompson (European Historiography) gave us Coors and glazed doughnuts.

James Vollintine (B.A., 1970) has been an attorney in Anchorage since 1974 after graduating from the University of Washington Law School, and his general private practice centers around corporate and tribal organizations. He plans on retiring in 2 years and moving

to Washington or California although he notes that the economy is still robust in Alaska and he seems to get busier as he gets older. He has one son, Jason, who lives in Las Vegas. *Memories:* Professors Sunseri and Rich Newell were my favorite history professors. I'll never forget Dr. Sunseri's blackboard depictions of historical concepts and his getting covered with chalk in the process.

Scott White (B.A., 1973, Minor in Political Science) is an Industrial Education Instructor for the Mount Vernon Community Schools and plans to teach for 3 more years, then joining his wife Sherry in retirement. He has taught for 31 years. His son and daughter both have degrees from UNI. Matt has a master's degree in Social Work and is employed by HACAP in Iowa City. Sara has her Social Science degree with seven endorsements and works for Wells Fargo in Des Moines. *Memories:* I enjoyed sharing stories of Sabin Hall with my daughter. It was thrilling to find out that we actually shared one instructor after all those years.

Al Wilke (B.A., 1970) taught middle school Social Studies from 1970 to 1979 and coached middle school and high school sports, retiring as assistant high school football coach in 2001. He is President/Agent with Swanson Insurance (Odebolt, Iowa) and has been with the agency since 1979.

Raymond Young (B.A., 1978) lives in Portland, Oregon, and retired from Daimler Trucks North America (formerly Freightliner LLC) in January 2009 after 26 years of employment, working the entire time in the information technology area.

1980s

Scott Arbogast (B.A., 1986) moved to Tracy, California, in 1999 to teach Special Education Social Studies to students in grades 7-12 in the Tracy Unified School District. *Memories:* I very much enjoyed all of my History courses, particularly the World History ones. I really enjoyed having Drs. Walker, Sandstrom, and Shepardson, and Professor Emeritus Kamerick the most!

Kevin Boatright (M.A., 1984) is the Director of Communications of the Office of Research and Graduate Studies at University of Kansas. He completed a 12-credit Graduate Certificate in Peace and Conflict Studies program at KU in 2010 that included a class on the history of West Africa, an enjoyable introduction to a subject he did not encounter while at UNI. *Memories:* I appreciated the flexibility in the M.A. program that allowed me to pursue my interest in the history of Canada, even though no one on the faculty had much background in that area. It was also a privilege getting to know Leland Sage near the end of his life and to take his History of Iowa correspondence class. Other memorable faculty included Glenda Riley, Dean Talbott, and Don Whitnah.

Shawn Brower (B.A., 1989) is a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army, a Special Forces Officer, who is currently serving in Afghanistan. He has been selected to command a battalion. He now has 3 boys. *Memories:* Iowa is my home, and I love the state and enjoyed my time at Northern Iowa.

Sue Caley (B.A., 1981) is an Administrative Assistant -

Communications for Wells Fargo and lives in West Des Moines.

Don Darland (B.A., 1986; M.A.E., 1987, College Student Personnel Services) has been at Indian Hills Community College for the last 17 years primarily as a recruiter but taught a U.S. History survey course one summer when the schedule allowed it. In March 2010, he completed 20 years combined service in the Iowa Army National Guard and active army. *Memories:* Really enjoyed all of the professors at UNI including Dr. Graves (deceased), Dr. Whitnah, Dr. Jones, and Professor Chang. I really feel all the faculty were excellent at UNI during my time there.

David Darrow (B.A., 1986) is Director of the University Honors Program and Associate Professor of History at the University of Dayton, completing his 14th year on the UD faculty. *Memories:* "Historians and Philosophy of History" with Dr. Thompson stands out; I still recall fondly his railing against relativism. Dr. O'Connor inspired me to study Russian history, and Dr. Shepardson made the first half of the 20th century come alive. Memories of Dr. Jones's lectures can still bring a smile to my face. Thanks much to all of them and to any others I have forgotten.

Dave Doerzman (B.A., 1984) resides in Cedar Falls and works in Patient Support Services at Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare.

Lisa (Litterer) Dreesman (B.A., 1985; M.L.S., 1993) is the Library Media Specialist at Des Moines Area Community College, Carroll Campus, joining the DMACC faculty in August 2009. *Memories:*

One of my favorite classes that I took in my history program was a women's history class that was taught by Dr. Glenda Riley. It was an eye-opener for me to learn the history of us, especially since women were not a major part of the primary and secondary history curriculum.

Brian Eckheart (B.A., 1981) lives in the United Kingdom and is Director of Operations at Hope Consultants International.

Philip Gansen (M.A., 1980) is an 8th and 9th grade U.S. History teacher with the Cedar Falls Community Schools who was nationally certified in 2000. *Memories:* I enjoyed the experience, but no one individual or event stands out at this point.

Terry Garrett (B.A., 1986) is a substitute teacher for several school districts and is looking for a full-time appointment. After 23 years of successful teaching, he resigned due to a health crisis which turned out to be cancer in the spleen. Two years have passed since his surgery and chemo, and he has found it difficult getting back into the work force due to the economy but remains ever hopeful. In May 2010, Terry and his wife Gina celebrated their 26th anniversary, and they have two children, Jack who is 15 and Allison who is 10. *Memories:* I especially liked Dr. Shepardson, who was my advisor, and Prof. Thomas Ryan. I enjoyed World History courses the most, especially European History.

Don Homan (M.A., 1982) taught for a few more years after finishing his M.A. and then went into financial services. He has been with Securian Advisors Mid-America for 20 years as a Financial

Advisor with an emphasis in asset management and retirement planning. His wife is a biology graduate of UNI who does research at the University of Iowa, and his son attends UNI. *Memories:* I always remember the relaxed atmosphere (I attended summer school for my M.A.) and the helpful attitude of the professors. David Walker was a challenging and eye-opening instructor, and Don Shepardson asked a very tough question in my comprehensive exams. I still think about it today and still haven't formulated a good answer. I think that was his point. I very much enjoyed my time at UNI. I still go back for games every year.

Jeffery Krieg (B.A., 1980) is a Teacher and Coach for Sacred Heart School/CVCS and has been teaching for 27 years. In 1997, he was named one of 12 Catholic teachers of the year in the nation. *Memories:* Chinese History with Prof. Chang Hsi Ling—I will never forget the man. Prof. Walker was my advisor; he was a good man also.

Dennis Lutz (B.A., 1986) is the owner of Iowa Falls Sewing Machine and Fabric. *Memories:* I really enjoyed the classes I took with Dr. Whitnah and Dr. Shepardson. I think of Dr. Chang every time I drive or bicycle through Steamboat Rock, Iowa.

Laurie (Brown) McKager (B.A., 1984) resides in Centennial, Colorado, and is District Administrator/18th Judicial District, Colorado Judicial Branch.

Patrick Murphy (B.A., 1988) is in his 12th season as Head Softball Coach at the University of Alabama. He has coached the team to 12 NCAA appearances and six

World Series. *Memories:* Dr. Glenda Riley was awesome—she was the best professor I had while at UNI.

Jim Pedersen (B.A., 1987) has continued to work as a Guidance Counselor with at-risk middle and high school students since receiving a M.S. in School Counseling in 2004 from the University of Central Missouri. Due to district budget cuts in Missouri, he will be transferred in the 2010-2011 school year to work as a counselor at the Fort Osage Career and Technology Center where his main duties will be to recruit students to attend 14 different career/technical programs that are offered. *Memories:* Just a lot of great memories of committed, thoughtful, and tremendously devoted instructors who took the time to help whenever asked. Dr. O'Connor (History of Imperial Russia) and Dr. Martin, who was my advisor, were two of the best instructors I've ever had.

James Shaw (M.A., 1987) is Director of Collections and Government Documents Librarian, Criss Library, at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. *Memories:* I still reach for Dr. Donald Whitnah's *Government Agencies* (Greenwood Press, 1983) several times each year as I assist researchers. It remains among the best books of its kind.

George Sheehy (B.A., 1985) is Contract Administrator at Convergys Corporation and lives in Cincinnati, Ohio. *Memories:* My favorite history course was U.S. Constitutional History with Dr. Whitnah.

Steven Steveson (B.A., 1982) is a Senior Paralegal Analyst with the Principal Financial Group.

His daughter Katelyn (Steveson) Backlin graduated from UNI in 2008 with a B.A. in Family Services. *Memories:* My most influential experience turned out to be the internship my advisor helped me arrange with the Redfern Law Firm in Cedar Falls. Twenty-eight years later, here I am doing some of that same type of work. Favorite class - Philosophy of History.

Mike Van Oosbree (B.A., 1987) works at Wild Rose Casino as a Table Games Dealer-Blackjack. He has granddaughter twins who are 4 and a grandson who is 2. *Memories:* Thomas Ryan was my advisor and was a great help.

1990s

Marilyn (Seaver) Andersen (B.A., 1991) resides in Cedar Falls and has been retired for a few years and loving every minute of it. *Memories:* When I went back to UNI to pursue a degree in history, I was already in my 50s and was uneasy the first day there with all the young students. But not only were all of the students tolerant, so were all the professors from whom I took classes. My teachers were wonderful and helpful. I had two favorites from whom I took whatever classes they offered. I spent 12 years as a substitute teacher after graduating, and the variety of courses that I had taken prepared me to cover all aspects of history at the junior and senior high school levels with confidence. I began the M.A. degree and unfortunately ran out of funds, but still today I think that I would like to return to UNI and continue my history studies.

Grant Brodrecht (B.A., 1995) lives in Winter Park, Florida, and is a History Instructor and Adjunct Professor of History employed by the Geneva School, Reformed Theological Seminary, and Belhaven University. He completed a Ph.D. at the University of Notre Dame in American History in 2008, while also being the father of five children and teaching full time in a liberal arts high school during the last two years of his doctoral program. *Memories:* Chuck Quirk and John Johnson were very influential in my intellectual development and demeanor. I will always remember them with gratitude. Please pass this on to them.

Rhetta (Seymour) Burnside (M.A., 1994) lives in Carbondale, Illinois, and is Interim Director of the McNair Scholars Program at Southern Illinois University.

Kathryn (Wulf) Byrd (B.A., 1996, History) resides in St. Bonifacius, Minnesota, and has recently started working as a Print Production Artist at the Christopher and Banks corporate office.

Ryan Dalton (B.A., 1998; M.A., tentatively 2010, Social Studies) is a High School Social Studies Teacher and Coach at Marshalltown Community Schools. He has 3 children, Abbie (9), Ellie (6), Nolan (4). *Memories:* Still my favorite class after all of the courses I have taken is Dr. Lees's Early German History.

Kevin Edmonds (B.A., 1994, Minor in Psychology) is a Teacher in Council Bluffs Community School District. *Memories:* Dr. Lees was a great teacher. He made History come alive, and that's what I try to do in my classes for my students.

Kerri (Potter) Eness-Potter (B.A., 1992) is a Teacher/Staff Development Facilitator at Iowa City Community Schools. Her husband Jason is a nurse at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. Their daughter Lucy was born in September 2008. *Memories:* I really enjoyed Professors Neymeyer and Martin.

Robin (Van Wert) England (B.A., 1990) lives in Iowa Falls, Iowa, and is Assistant Program Administrator at Central Iowa Residential Services, Inc.

Lisa (Hynek) Gillis-Davis (B.A., 1998, Minor in Political Science) is Director of Upward Bound at the University of Hawaii-Windward Community College. She received a M.Ed. in Higher Education Admin. from the University of Missouri-St. Louis in January 2003. Currently she is pursuing a Ph.D. in Educational Administration (Higher Education) at the University of Hawaii-Manoa. Her career in higher education administration has included six years as a college academic advisor and four years as a director of Upward Bound, for which she received a \$1,000,000 grant from the U.S. Dept. of Education. She married in 2005 and in 2008 welcomed her son Owen. *Memories:* I remember Dr. Johnson's senior seminar where we each profiled a particular person from the Watergate Scandal; I had John Ehrlichman. I enjoyed working at the UNI Museum and studying public history with Dr. Goldman. I even created an exhibit on the History of UNI for display in Seerley Hall. Dr. Goldman served as the supervisor of two public history internships I completed: one at Vesterheim in Decorah and one at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. Thank you for laying the foundation of writing and critical thinking that I now use in my job and doctoral studies!

Joseph Heitzman (B.A., 1991) resides in West Des Moines, Iowa, and is a Senior Underwriter (Group Products) at Principal Financial Group.

Tim Hilby (B.A., 1998) lives in Waterloo, Iowa, and is in Quality Inspection at John Deere.

Chris Hudson (B.A., 1996) is an 8th grade U.S. History Teacher/Coach at Knoxville (Iowa) Community Schools. His son Michael is 7, and his daughter Hayden is 5. His wife Mandy will start graduate school at UNI in fall 2010. *Memories:* I'm very pleased with all of the staff members I came in contact with.

Scott Jones (M.A., 1993) was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 2004 and is a member of the religious order Society of the Divine Savior. Starting in August 2010, he became Professor of Church History at Sacred Heart School of Theology in Hales Corners, Wisconsin. *Memories:* I had a wonderful experience in the UNI History Department. Carol Weisenberger and Dr. Eiklor stand out as two of the exceptional professors.

Mike Kapler (B.A., 1997, History and B.A., Management/Business Administration) lives in Denver, Colorado, and is a Senior User Experience Architect with DISH Network.

Missy (Anderson) Lucas (B.A., 1999) is a Pension Administrator at Pension Plan Services, Inc., and has worked for the company for 10 years. She notes that the research skills she gained from the History program have helped tremendously when learning a new position. She married Gary Lucas in 1999, and they have two

children, Campbell and Teagan, ages 6 and 1, respectively. *Memories*: I remember being intrigued with everything the professors taught me. I always wanted to learn more about each and every subject because the professors were so passionate about their specialties.

Kerry (Beyer) Lust (B.A., 1999) is a Teacher of high school social studies at North Polk Schools. She taught at Holmes Junior High in Cedar Falls from 1999-2007 and began working at North Polk Schools after moving to Ankeny in July 2007. Kerry and her husband Adam have 2 boys. Carter is 4, and Brandon is 2. *Memories*: I really enjoyed Dr. Connor's classes. He did an excellent job of preparing me for teaching.

Jim Mattson (B.A., 1998) lives in Jesup, Iowa, and is the Purchasing Manager for Iowa Laser Technology. *Memories*: Dr. David Walker's classes. He had such an easy going teaching style, but was obviously an expert in history. He was never too busy to help a student. Great, great professor.

Jason Neises (B.A., 1991) resides in Oak Park, Illinois, and is Vice President of Tour Operations and Guest Relations at Chicago Architecture Foundation.

Nick Newton (B.A., 1999) lives in Ankeny, Iowa, and is in shipping at Hach Company.

Jason Oberheu (B.A., 1998) lives in Denver, Colorado, and is Regional Athletic Director at the YMCA of Metropolitan Denver.

Paul Olson (B.A., 1997) is an Associate Professor of Sociology and Honors Program Director at Briar Cliff University. He

received an M.A. in Religious Studies from the University of Kansas in 1999 and a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Nebraska in 2006. He has taught at Briar Cliff University since the fall of 2005 and was recently promoted to associate professor. His research focuses on religion in American society with an emphasis on church attendance and membership residential patterns over the past century. Paul and his wife Teresa (UNI, 1997, Marketing) have lived in Sioux City since 2005 and have three daughters, Phoebe (6), Siddha (4), and Daphne (1). *Memories*: Several members of the UNI History faculty, particularly John Johnson, John Baskerville, Tom Connors, and my advisor, Carol Weisenberger, were influential in my decision to pursue a Ph.D. and a life in higher education. I owe them an incredible amount of thanks. My favorite outside-of-classroom memory was going to an auction with Tom Connors, strategically not bidding against each other, and then splitting our winnings based on our historical interests. I've always appreciated his willingness to let me tag along that evening.

Leigh Ann (Jero) Randak (B.A., 1992) is Curator at the Johnson County Historical Society and lives in Iowa City with her husband Christoph whom she married in 2006.

Shannon Risk (B.A., 1994) is an Assistant Professor of History at Niagara University. After UNI, she went on to obtain a Master's degree in History and then went into the museum profession, holding positions in Dallas, San Francisco, Rochester (N.Y.),

and Cold Spring (N.Y.). She returned to school in 2005 and earned her Ph.D. in History in 2009, along with a graduate concentration in women's studies. Shannon was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to study in Canada for the 2008-2009 academic year. Her other activities over the years have included publishing a work of fiction, running a sprint triathlon, and visiting Europe several times. In 2009, she was hired for her current position at Niagara University where she teaches American history courses and has started a public history program. *Memories*: I credit my education at UNI with getting me started in public history. Also, the History Club was fantastic. I especially enjoyed the trips we took to Galena and the Iowa Living History Farm. I am thrilled to see that many of my former UNI professors are still happily engaged in the profession!

Coree Smith (B.A., 1998) is a Partner, Real Estate Practice Group, with Kirkland & Ellis, LLP. She graduated from the University of Iowa College of Law with high honors in 2001 and has worked as an attorney in Chicago ever since. In her spare time, she is an active alumnae volunteer for Alpha Phi Sorority and does professional choreography for high school dance teams. *Memories*: I generally remember taking almost every history course offered at UNI during my 5 years there and the great professors I had during that time. Professor John Johnson got me interested in graduate school, particularly law school, through his Legal History class. I have never looked back!

Ben Stanford (B.A., 1998) is an Educator for the State of Iowa, teaching high school social studies at the Mental Health Institute in Independence. *Memories:* I liked all of the History professors, but really Dr. Johnson, Dr. Bruess, and Dr. Shepardson.

Kevin Stewart (B.A., 1992; M.A., 2000; A.S.C., 2008, Educational Administration) is a Teacher at Cedar Falls Community Schools. *Memories:* Of course all the great time in the office with Judy and Vickie!

Jennifer (Stephens) Van Haften (B.A., 1993) is presently working as Curator of Interpretation at the Wisconsin Historical Society–Old World Wisconsin after holding the position of Education Coordinator at Elmhurst Historical Museum (Illinois) from 1999-2005. She has two children, a boy and a girl, who are now 10 and 7, with fellow alumnus Joel Van Haften. *Memories:* I believe that the History Club's first Halloween party with people dressed as their favorite historical figures started when I was president of the club. Good times. I recall Introduction to History with Jay Lees, Modern European History with Roy Sandstrom, and who could forget Historians and Philosophy with Professor Wohl. I still remember the first day of class with Professor Sandstrom when he had us think of something we wanted a law about and then shared it with the whole class. He then pointed out all the laws listed in the Bible and explained that laws against some of those lewd behaviors meant that someone was doing them and others wanted them to stop. It really made me think differently about the Bible and prescriptive literature in general.

Curt Watson (B.A., 1994) lives in Minnetonka, Minnesota, and is Vice President, Information Technology, at Rels. He is married with two children, ages 7 and 8. *Memories:* Professor Wohl always had the tougher classes, but I marveled at his ability to rattle off any historian's quote from any article or book.

Olivia Wedemeyer (B.A., 1997) lives in Denver, Colorado, and is Senior Human Resource Generalist at Emergency Medical Services Corporation.

Joel Weeks (B.A., 1996) has been the Education Administrator (Principal) at the State Training School in Eldora since August 2009. He is pursuing a doctorate in Education at UNI.

Steven Witmer (B.A., 1995) resides in Urbandale, Iowa, and is Planning Assistant for the City of Johnston.

2000s

Kevin Benson (B.A., 2002) is an 8th Grade Social Studies Teacher in the Anderson School District 5, Anderson, South Carolina. *Memories:* Thomas Connors and Jerome Soneson were simply hands-down the best professors I had at UNI during the four years of my B.A. education. They had a wealth of knowledge and cared deeply about their students' achievement. Please tell them "Thanks" for all they did (and do) for students at UNI.

Shannon Clayton (B.A., 2000) is a 7th Grade Social Studies Teacher at Bettendorf Middle School, where he is completing his ninth year of teaching. He received a M.A. in Education in 2004 from Nova Southeastern University. He

married his wife Angie on June 14, 2003. They have one son, Ben, born on October 13, 2008, and are expecting again in August 2010. *Memories:* No one can forget Tom Connors's teaching Social Studies Methods and assigning all those lesson and unit plans.

Jenny (Rokes) Connolly (B.A., 2005) is Assistant Director/Outreach at the University of Northern Iowa and received an M.A.E. from UNI in 2008. She is married to Scott Connolly (UNI, 2005), and their son Noah was born on June 24, 2009. *Memories:* All of my classes with Professor Hettle were great! He was a great lecturer and a great resource. Professor Shepardson was also a great lecturer—I loved Military History with him! Professor John Johnson was one of the toughest professor's I have ever had, and I LOVED his seminar on constitutional law. It was a class that was super challenging, and I learned a lot! Also, thanks to Chad Christopher and Professor Connors for teaching me how to teach!

Alexis Donlon (B.A., 2004) is a High School Social Studies Teacher at Dunkerton Community School and has been teaching and coaching track and field since 2008. She married Austin Ceaglske in Jamaica in 2009. *Memories:* History Club's trip to Chicago was great! I really enjoyed Shepardson, Connors, and Lyftogt's classes, especially since I continue to use their information for my career.

Jesse Dowell (B.A., 2006) is a Social Studies Teacher in the Johnston (IA) Community School District and teaches World History and AP Psychology. He is currently working on a Masters in

Social Science at UNI and should graduate summer of 2011. He married Jessica Webb, also a UNI alum, last August. *Memories:* I had a great experience at UNI, especially in my history courses. Dr. Roberts's Pop Culture, Dr. Dise's Ancient Rome, and Dr. Connors's Teaching American History are among my favorites!

Kevin Ernzen (B.A., 2006) lives in Chicago, Illinois, and is a Marketing Manager at McGraw-Hill.

Michael Geisler (B.A., 2002) lives in Norwalk, Iowa, and is a Social Studies Teacher at the Carlisle Community Schools.

Kim Hanna (B.A., 2004) resides in St. Paul, Minnesota, and is a Market Coordinator at Midtown Global Market. *Memories:* I really enjoyed classes with Drs. Walker and Lees. I especially enjoyed my senior seminar, "Shakespeare as a Historian" with Dr. Lees.

Clint Holtz (B.A., 2009) is an Assistant Manager at the Rialto Dining Center at the University of Northern Iowa. He is currently a 2nd lieutenant in the Iowa Army National Guard with his unit preparing to deploy to Afghanistan. He is engaged to Katie Klocke (UNI, 2009). *Memories:* Always loved Dr. Shepardson's classes. He always kept it interesting for me.

Kirsten Jensen (B.A., 2007) resides in West Liberty, Iowa, and is a Special Education Teacher in the West Liberty Community School District. *Memories:* U.S. Popular Culture was my favorite class.

Ryan McCord (B.A., 2004) lives in Omaha, Nebraska, and in May 2010 received his juris doctorate from Creighton School of Law.

Sherry (Allen) Milam (B.A., 2006) resides in Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin and is the Training & Organizational Development Manager at Franklin Energy Services.

Erin (Schmitz) Oetker (M.A., 2009) has been working as a Sports Writer for the *Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier* for the past few months, and she also taught as an adjunct at Hawkeye Community College during the 2010 spring semester. Erin and her husband Pat bought a house in Hudson in March 2009 and had their first child in the fall of 2010.

Kara Park (B.A., 2005) is an Athletic Academic Advisor at the University of Northern Iowa. After receiving her B.A., she earned an M.A.E. in 2007 from UNI in Postsecondary Education: Student Affairs, focusing on advising, especially student-athletes in college. She became an athletic academic advisor at the University of Akron in June 2007 and was promoted to Assistant Director for Student-Athlete Academic Services in 2008. In February 2010, Kara returned to UNI to work in her present position. She notes that she is happy to be a part of the UNI family once again! *Memories:* I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to travel to Poland in 2004 on a summer Holocaust Studies trip with Dr. Jay Lees and several other students from UNI and Iowa. It was one of, if not the most, life-changing and wonderful experiences in my life. I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to travel overseas and to make friendships with other students that I still maintain to this day. Dr. Lees was an amazing teacher (I had him for several other classes.) and is a great mentor to those that cross his path either

in classes or on trips like the one I took.

Jed Peterson (M.A., 2000) is an Assistant Professor at Kirkwood Community College. After receiving his M.A. from UNI, he went on to pursue a doctorate at the University of Iowa. Then in 2007 he was hired full time at Kirkwood Community College. In 2010, he was elected to the College Community School District School Board and is enjoying his work on the board. Jed and his wife Wendi (UNI, 1999, Mathematics) have 5 children, including twins.

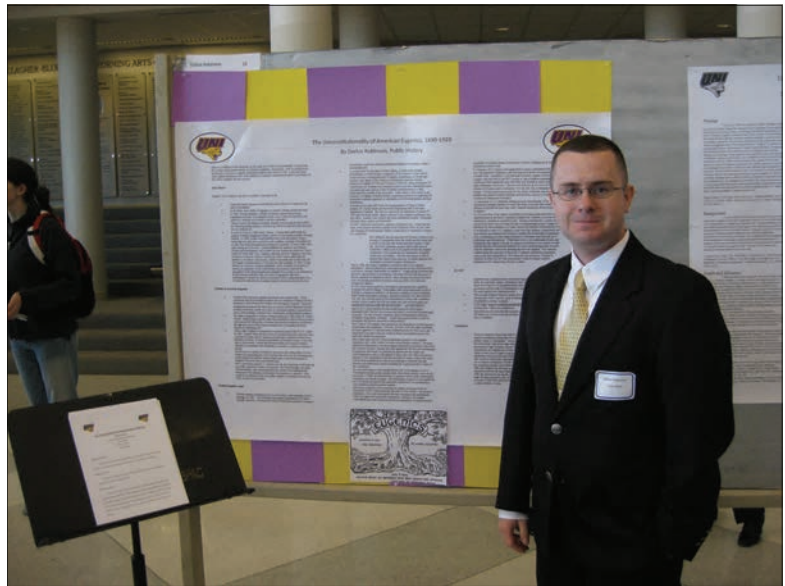
Dave Sorrell (B.A., 2009) lives in Waverly, Iowa, and is currently looking for employment. *Memories:* I started the History program at UNI just for personal fulfillment. After earning my degree, I can say that not only did I have many of my life's questions answered, but I also learned methods to help me ascertain the answers for myself. I'm deeply indebted to the UNI History program. Thank you.

B.J. VanVleet (B.A., 2005) is a 7th-12th grade Social Studies Teacher who is currently working on his M.A. in Social Science at UNI. He just finished his fifth year of teaching at Collins-Maxwell Middle/High School. He notes that he has put his Social Studies endorsement to good use having taught Government, Economics, American History, World History, Psychology, Sociology, Current Events, Law and Society, Civics, and Money Matters. B.J. has also coached baseball, football, and basketball. He writes that he has great students and always encourages them to give UNI a look. *Memories:* I just recently finished a course with

Dr. Tom Connors, a Teaching U.S. History seminar that was a tremendous personal and professional experience. Dr. Connors did an excellent job designing a graduate course that provided me with new materials for my classroom. Plus, his engaging lectures and reading selection made me think differently about a lot of topics within American History.

Sara Weinrich (B.A., 2000) lives in Omaha, Nebraska, and is Claims Attorney at Fidelity National Title.

Kendra Willey (B.A., 2007) is a Teaching Assistant at Saint Louis University. After graduating from UNI, she wrote the script for a documentary on automobile history called "Paving the Way." She has just earned her M.A. in Early Modern European History from Saint Louis University and will be entering the convent of the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist in August 2010. She notes that she will likely be assigned to teach with them and is very excited! *Memories:* Traveling with Dr. Lees and Dr. Sadowski on the study abroad trip to Poland was one of the most profound experiences of my life. I loved my European history classes especially, and I have many fond memories of the professors there!



Recent UNI Masters graduate Darius Robinson stands with his poster at the Graduate Research Symposium



Former Graduate Assistants



Former History Graduate Student at the Research Symposium

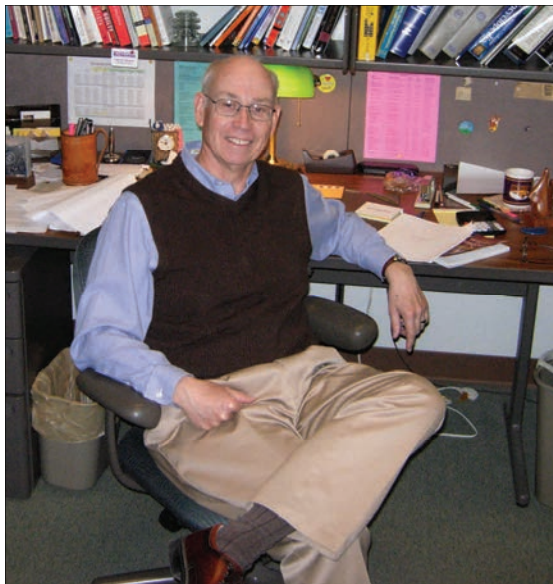
FROM THE EDITORS

It's hard to believe that it's been ten years since we published a History Department Newsletter. We apologize for the long hiatus.

The main challenge we faced in producing this issue was one of coverage: What should we include? And what should we leave out? Trying to make sense out of ten years in the life of an academic department is a daunting task. Rather than just skimming the surface of many subjects, we decided that the focus of this issue should be on the people we most directly serve and have served—our current students and our many alumni.

A final query: We have produced this newsletter in an electronic fashion as well as a traditional paper format. In the interest of saving forests (not to mention money), should we go exclusively to the electronic format in future newsletters?

John Johnson
Carol Weisenberger



Dr. John Johnson



Dr. Carol Weisenberger

P.S. Many thanks to **Dale Yurs**, M.A. History 2011, for his excellent work in mounting the text and photographs and formatting the newsletter!



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